

STORET/WQX Conference Call – June 28, 2012, 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time

Introduction (Charles Kovatch)

- The minutes from all previous conference calls are available over the web: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/confcalls.html>
- The next scheduled call will be July 2012. The exact date will be emailed via the list server when the call gets closer.
- Please email storet@epa.gov and let EPA know you have attended the call so that meeting rosters may be kept.
- If you have a special topic you'd like to lead for an upcoming call, please email Kovatch.Charles@epamail.epa.gov
- EPA would like to hear comments you have on the quality of these conference calls. Please send them to storet@epa.gov
- Please subscribe to the STORET automated listserver for announcements regarding conference calls: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/listserv.html>

State Developed Tools – Charles Kovatch

- EPA requests that state users email storet@epa.gov with information about tools states have developed using STORET Web Services to call water quality data and which use water quality data to support assessment decisions, water analysis, permit writers, enforcement actions, or other uses.
- Please include e-mail so that we can discuss the tool with you.

Virtual STORET Conference – Charles Kovatch

- There hasn't been a STORET user meeting in a couple of years because budgets have been trimmed. They'd like to meet and engage with the users but don't have the resources to put on a conference, so they'd like to do 1 to 2 hour or 1/2-day webinars that would include various sessions.
- A poll of the audience was done to see if there is an interest in having a virtual user conference and see if there are any particular sessions they'd like to participate in. State and Tribal personnel would also be able to share their tools at the conference. EPA will send out their ideas for the virtual conference. Interested in if there are any topics that you would like to discuss.
- Tracie with Seldovia Village Tribe in AK said that it was a great idea and referred to Exchange Network Conference.
- EPA will come up with ideas to send out to users and try to put something together.

Watershed Summary Tool – Kevin Christian

- This is an engine enhancement or migration to the current Watershed Summary tool. Have reintroduced it in ORACLE Application Express (APEX).
- The URL will change. You will get a different look and feel to the Watershed Summary application, which queries by watershed, gives different organizational inventories, and gives different characteristic inventories of the watershed and allows you to drill in for the data. It will perform the same as before.
- Will enhance it to take advantage of some of the new features you have in APEX, as far as customizing some of the filter columns that can be displayed.
- Will broaden the scope from watershed to any geographic area. You can get the same type of report.

Update to WQX Node – Kevin Christian

- We haven't update to our WQX Node.
- Will publish the new node endpoints via list serve and Exchange Network.
- We have some preliminary deadline dates in July.
- We will also publish the links on our website.
- We have finally maneuvered through hurdles to move WQX Node development into Production.
- We will be shortly after that within a 30 day window of updating WQX Web 2 as a partner component version to the new WQX Node.
- This is called WQX NGN Node because it is a shared Headquarters Node leveraging new technology of the latest Exchange Network Node.
- This will allow us to stay more in synch with the node version of the Exchange Network releases.
- Tentative date is mid-July. Look for the hard date in the e-mail.
- Bill with MT DEQ asked if new WQX Node will affect schema or anything we do on the state side. Kevin answered no it won't.

Overview of Activities Presentation – Charles Kovatch

- In the middle of budget discussions. Have to assess where you are and wish to accomplish. Also want audience thoughts on what should go on wish list or make different priority.
- We see STORET as not only data housing but for data management.
- Data flow constitutes XML format or WQX Web running through the Central Data Exchange into WQX Database. Transfer to STORET Warehouse on weekly refresh schedule. Data are then available through a number of mechanisms including STORET Website, Webservices, Water Quality Portal with USGS, and other agency applications.
- Highlighting Program connections – a lot of activities support CWA 106 program, CWA 305(b) monitoring and assessment program. We are partnering with Office of Enforcement and Compliance (OECA) who sets priorities using Water quality data to improve transparency over where permitted facilities may not be in compliance. We collaborate with USGS Water Quality Portal having shared format for availability of USGS NWIS and EPA STORET data in one location.
- Submittal of Water Monitoring data is a grant condition under 106 grant program. Some states are doing this better than others. We want to focus some effort on this area to ensure that data are coming through.
- We are still providing assistance to a number of states trying to submit to STORET through WQX. Had a backlog of system errors. The ETL process was not functioning properly and changes needed to be made in STORET Warehouse.
- We have seen an improvement this year. Increased data holdings. Working with data owners. Responded to over 900 inquiries.
- Released a number of spreadsheet tools for loading data into WQX Web.
- Of note, NARS Survey data have been uploaded into STORET.
- Getting consistent performance in ETL process and it is happening faster.
- Corrected some warehouse tables.
- Migrated to new ORACLE platform at National Computing Center in Research Triangle Park, NC.
- Improved Data Access and Utilities – co-launched Water Quality Portal with USGS, released updated warehouse query tool, and will release a dashboard of data status. The dashboard will allow public to see data holdings by state.
- FY 13 – continue working with users to help them with data submissions and outreach for STORET and Water Quality Portal
- Completing Warehouse infrastructure changes and tables completeness for ETL operational efficiency – largest focus.

- Internally updating Security Plan.
- Data access – Update web services for warehouse changes. Release new services for metrics and indices.
- FY 14 – with corrections to warehouse –continue with outreach, exploring WQX as a WATERS Data standard on the Open Geospatial Consortium – help leveraging use of WQX with more partners. Likely will update dashboard based on community suggested capabilities. Maybe put out more data analysis tools, like a water screening tool or summary tools.
- Wish list – EPA has large water repository with in Chesapeake Bay office, as well as on in the Great Lakes National program office. We will start working with them to make those data sets retrievable through the Water Quality Portal. Open Geospatial Consortium is a big effort. Continuing support for Water Quality Portal with USGS. Conduct alternatives analysis on our system to make sure that we are operating as efficiently as possible. Number of analysis tools would be nice to have: summary statistics, water screening tools.
- We are in O&M mode. We don't have a lot of extra ability to go into development mode. This will enable us to see improved performance from the warehouse and expand into more outreach and tool capabilities.
- Sue McCarthy from EPA Region 10 – Have tried in the past to work with OSWER. Can you reach out again for working with SCRIBE and compatibility between some of their data bases and WQX? Charles mentioned that there was a one-time activity to map from SCRIBE to WQX. Sue also mentioned CERCLA – Sample Management Portal. Some similarities with schema and they user SRS. Superfund data has been put in to WQX in Region 10. OSWER seems to be willing to work with Region 10 and coming up with new ways of working with data.
- Bob Simpson from EPA Region 2 mentioned that the Exchange Network Solicitation Notice has received input from programs as to recommended activities for applications under the 2013 competition. OW might have opportunity, still, to suggest EN services that support translation between SCRIBE and WQX. As it stands, the geospatial community is looking to just work with SCRIBE on a stand-alone basis to enable services dealing with the geospatial aspect of SCRIBE. No-one seems to be trying to formalize that handshake between SCRIBE and WQX.
- Sue McCarthy from Region 10 also noted that they are doing a re-designed of the CLPSS database in the Sample Management Program, which feeds the Sample Management Office deliverables to the Contract Lab Program (CLP) for Superfund which dovetails nicely into SCRIBE. Developed standardized Portal Output. This format is compatible with WQX Schema and can also be used to import lab results and import the into SCRIBE. WQX would be a perfect way to put a public face on the data that would otherwise be internal. Automated validation is produced through the Sample Management Portal. (search on EPA SMO portal – need username and log-in.)
- Kevin Christian mentioned that we may gain some insight in forecasting what we need to do to better support or help our end users do their job better is if end users would share what partners that they interface with. Would welcome this feedback through STORET@epa.gov. May be a way of sharing best business practices.
- Arne from Colorado – Where can I send in Water Quality Portal errors? Kevin Christian responded that these should go to STORET@epa.gov. Include as much information as possible.

Participants on call (based on who emailed storet@epa.gov)

Sue McCarthy	EPA R10
Deb Merrill	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Lowell Carty	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Arne Sjodin	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
John Beebe	National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc
Mike Butler	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Tracie Merrill	Seldovia Village Tribe
Molli MacDonald	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Richard Frazier	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Anthony Williams	EPA R10
Rebekah Sluss	Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
Matt Gubitosa	EPA R10
Caitlyn Nichols	Interstate Environmental Commission
Tom Dallaire	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Andrea Thomas	North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Rick Langel	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Molly Pulket	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Bob Simpson	EPA R2
Daniel Reid	EPA R6
Kayren Pittman	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Joe Gross	North Dakota Department of Health
Bruce Tuttle	Idaho Department of Water Resources
Lemonteh Horne	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Eric Wilson	Gulf Coast STORET, LLC
Kibri Everett-Hutchison	RTI International